



Montana Food Bank Network

February 12, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

Montana children need proper nutrition so that they are fit, healthy and ready to succeed at school. However, many Montana schools are struggling to provide proper student nutrition due to lack of adequate or necessary facilities, space or equipment. Currently 18,000 Montana children do not have access to a School Breakfast Program. Additionally, schools that do have a breakfast program, have very low participation. Only 40% of the students that participate in the Lunch program also eat school breakfast.

We want to voice our support for HB 479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals. This bill is vital to supporting Montana children in achieving academic success while at school. School nutrition programs provide balanced meals to children to ensure they are ready to learn. The bill seeks "one-time only" funding for critical needs to run the School meal programs so that school districts throughout Montana can secure equipment needed to serve high quality meals.

Many parents would prefer to feed their children at home; however, many families have no choice but to have both parents working. This makes it very difficult for parents to take care of their children's meals, and yet get to work on time.

Children make up **43% of the total clients** that receive emergency food from Montana Food Bank agencies statewide. For many low income children, school meals may be the only meals they receive in a day. It is especially critical that school meals provide adequate nutrition for those children whose family may not have the resources to provide a meal at home.

Thank you for your service to the State of Montana. Please take strong consideration in supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Montana Food Bank Network
Montana Food Policy Council
Missoula Food Bank, Missoula
Community Food and Agriculture Coalition (CFAC), Missoula County
Butte Emergency Food Bank, Butte
Polson Loaves & Fish Food Pantry, Polson
Central Montana Community Cupboard, Lewistown
The Salvation Army, Missoula
Ronan Bread Basket, Ronan
Havre Food Bank, Havre
Gardiner Food Pantry, Gardiner
Pondera Food Pantry, Conrad
Beaverhead Community Food Pantry, Dillon



Cynthia Lotty
Missoula Food Bank
219 S. 3rd St. W.
Missoula, MT 59801

February 9, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

On behalf of Missoula Food Bank, I want to voice our support for HB 479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals. This bill is vital to supporting Montana children in achieving academic success while at school. School nutrition programs provide balanced meals to children to ensure they are ready to learn. The bill seeks "one-time only" funding for critical needs to run the school meal programs so that school districts throughout Montana can secure equipment needed to serve high quality meals. More and more Montana schools are also buying locally grown Montana foods. HB 479 will enable these schools to do more of that, and to support local farmers and the area economy.

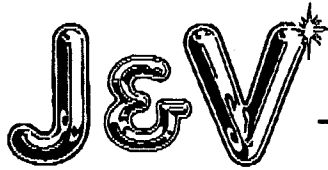
Children make up 41% of the total clients that receive food from Missoula Food Bank—that's a total of 5,500 individual children each year in our Missoula service area. For many low-income children, school meals may be the only meals they receive in a day. It is especially critical that school meals provide adequate nutrition for those children whose family may not have the resources to provide a meal at home.

Missoula Food Bank works hard to address childhood hunger. In addition to our year-round work of providing emergency food in individuals and families in need, we also operate a Kids Cafe Program, which provides over 7,000 nutritious meals each summer to school-age children who would otherwise be at risk of hunger. HB 479 will help provide needed food to this same population.

Thank you for your service to the State of Montana. Feel free to contact me at (406) 549-0543 or by email (cynthia@missoulafoodbank.org) if you would like to further discuss this issue. Please take strong consideration in supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Lotty
Executive Director, Missoula Food Bank



RESTAURANT SUPPLY AND REFRIGERATION INC.

February 13, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

RE: HB#479 Improving Access to Healthy School Meals

Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

I wish to show my support for the above named Bill. J & V Restaurant Supply, Bozeman and Great Falls, feels this bill is a very important step to continue our support to Montana children to achieve academic success in the future. We have been involved in school nutrition programs all over the state for the past thirty years and have heard the success stories when programs have been able to upgrade and/or expand to improve nutritious meals. Breakfast programs and salad bars are always well received by both students and teachers because of the end result, improved learning.

This bill not only benefit's the children but will provide a positive economic effect to supply businesses such as J & V.

Thank you for considering this bill to improve Montana. Please feel free to call or e-mail if you have questions or concerns (vlaird@jvrestaurant.com)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Vonda Laird'.

Vonda Laird
V. President

P.O. Box 250 • Bozeman, Montana 59771 • (406) 587-9303 • 1-800-331-3357 • Fax: (406) 587-3162
www.jvrestaurant.com • E-mail: jvsupply@avicom.net



PO Box 1197 • Helena, MT 59624-1197 • (406) 444-2501

January 26, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Montana Dietetic Association, I want to voice our support for HB 479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals. This bill is vital to supporting Montana children in achieving academic success while at school. School nutrition programs provide balanced meals to children to ensure they are ready to learn. The bill seeks "one-time only" funding for critical needs to run the School meal programs so that school districts throughout Montana can secure equipment needed to serve high quality meals. More and more Montana schools are also buying locally grown Montana foods. HB 479 will enable these schools to do more of that, and to support local farmers and the area economy.

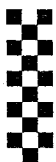
The Montana Dietetic Association supports this bill as an excellent way to reach food insecure and needy children in the State of Montana, while providing healthy meals to all children that better enable them to learn. Bills such as this one take a proactive approach to health and wellness that will help ensure the well-being of our nation in the future.

Thank you for your service to the State of Montana. Feel free to contact me at (406) 443-3421 or by e-mail cemerson@bresnan.net if you would like to further discuss this issue. We appreciate your help in supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Emerson".

Christine Emerson, MS, RD
President, Montana Dietetic Association



Olney-Bissell School District #58
5955 Farm to Market Road
Whitefish, MT 59937-8319

Phone 862-2828
Fax 862-2838
Email bissell@cyberport.net

February 9, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Montana House Education Committee
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Representative Jore:

I am writing to you concerning how the funds provided by HB 479 would benefit our school. I realize you will be considering this bill in committee next week and I would like to write in favor of the bill.

Olney-Bissell School is one of the many small schools in Montana who does not have a hot lunch program for our students. We were able to initiate a breakfast program this year because we were given start up funds. The start up funds were used to replace the reimbursement we have received in the past for free and reduced milk at lunch. Unfortunately the cost of milk at lunch is not reimbursed if you receive funding for free and reduced breakfasts but do not have a free and reduced lunch program. All of our teachers have noted an improvement in morning readiness to learn, especially in the free and reduced breakfast group. Since we have no start up funds for a lunch program, our school may not be able to continue the breakfast program. We do not have the resources in our district to pay for milk at lunch for our students but we feel that the milk is as important as breakfast. Would you like to have to choose between these two important elements in a child's diet? Please help us to initiate a lunch program at our school so we do not have to delete our breakfast program. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

JeAnna Wisher
Clerk

Jill Abbott-Stoltzfus
Hawthorne School Nutrition Committee
619 N. Willson
Bozeman, MT 59715

February 8, 2006

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

On behalf of Hawthorne School Nutrition Committee, I want to voice our support for HB # 479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals. This bill is vital to supporting Montana children in achieving academic success while at school. School nutrition programs provide balanced meals to children to ensure they are ready to learn. The bill seeks "one-time only" funding for critical needs to run the School meal programs so that school districts throughout Montana can secure equipment needed to serve high quality meals. More and more Montana schools are also buying locally grown Montana foods. HB 479 will enable these schools to do more of that, and to support local farmers and the area economy.

A group of parents at Hawthorne Elementary School in Bozeman formed a committee to attempt to address concerns regarding the nutritional quality of school lunches. The Bozeman public schools transport lunches every day to each school from the satellite food service facility at which the meals are prepared. Most of the schools' lunch rooms are crowded and do not have equipment or space to prepare and serve wholesome foods. Many of the meals consist of processed packaged precooked items. We would like to see our children receiving more wholesome fresh foods and freshly prepared foods in order to provide them with better nutrition for best academic and physical performance, good behaviors, and to help them maintain healthy weights. We are also investigating the Farm to School program in hopes of providing local growers with increased business and our children with local fresh nutritious foods. Unfortunately, the school lunch program through-out the state of Montana is tightly budgeted and without additional funds there may be no way to improve our facilities or purchase local foods. That is why we support the passage of HB 479 which will be a step towards this goal.

Thank you for your service to the State of Montana. Feel free to contact me at 406 587-1445 or by email jabbstoltz@msn.com if you would like to further discuss this issue. Please take strong consideration in supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Jill Abbott-Stoltzfus



Pete Astrup
Bridger Design & Equipment
7535 Shedhorn Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718

February 7, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

On behalf of Bridger Design & Equipment, I want to voice our support for HB#479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals. This bill is vital to supporting Montana children in achieving academic success while at school. School nutrition programs provide balanced meals to ensure that they are ready to learn. This bill seeks one time funding for Montana school district meal programs to secure equipment needed to serve high quality nutritious meals and/or start a breakfast or lunch program.

As a supplier of food service equipment to schools, we are knowledgeable of the needs of schools to buy new or replace deteriorating equipment used in preparing, storing, and transporting of meals provided to their students. For example if more schools had salad bars, they would be able to offer a greater variety of fruits and vegetables and improve children's diets.

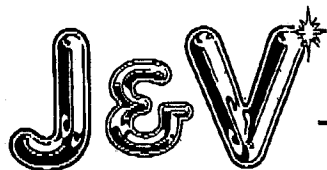
This bill would not only benefit the children but also the private sector economy of businesses like ours.

Thank you for your service to the State of Montana. I can be contacted at 406-582-1466 or pastrup@bridgerdesign.com if you would like to further discuss this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Pete Astrup". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pete Astrup
President
Bridger Design & Equipment



RESTAURANT SUPPLY AND REFRIGERATION INC.

2/11/07

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

I am concerned about the affects of HB479 on Schools throughout Montana. A cash infusion of \$5,000.00 would go along way towards a school's food program. I would like to point out a few equipment purchases that could be accomplished with \$5,000.00. All Montana Schools need the following and in my opinion could mix and match to purchase what they need.

Convection oven, -----	\$3,000.00
Salad bar -----	\$1865.00
Hot food table -----	\$1530.00
Pot sink -----	\$650.00
Hand sink -----	\$150.00
Dishwasher -----	\$4000.00

I hope these figures will help determine the value of \$5,000.00 would have on these schools. If I can be of any service please feel free to contact me, thanks you!!

Sincerely,

Jim Laird

Rick Jore
House Education Committee Chair
2007 Montana State Legislature

February 11, 2007

Robin Vogler
958 Blue Lake Lane
Bigfork, MT 59911

My letter comes to you in regard to the initial hearing in the Education Committee of the House for HB 479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals, set for Friday, Feb 16th at 3 pm in the Capitol Room 137. I am a Food Service Director & Wellness Program Coordinator for school District 29, Lakeside/Somers, MT. This bill seeks one-time funding to increase and improve access to healthy school meals through the Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Programs.

As a food service manager, I see first hand the difference that good nutritious meals make in a child's day and ability to concentrate on their studies. My school foodservice program lacks the adequate or necessary facilities, space or equipment to feed the children in our buildings. We are only able to feed our kids in shifts, rotating grade levels to provide adequate seating and table space. The students are afforded just 10 minutes to eat in order to serve everyone and not cut into academic time. Much of the equipment in my kitchen has been in service since the 1950's, some even survived the fire of 1951, when the Somers School was largely destroyed. I am concerned that the cast aluminum pots we cook in are unsafe for cooking, as most are pitted and scarred from over a half century's use. The ovens and stoves are equally aged and inefficient. Two of our lunchroom tables have buckled and are currently duct taped as we really have no alternatives available. Our student numbers have recently swelled to over 600 kids, K-8, with more new families moving into the district every month.

We desperately need to replace some of our tired old equipment. I have donated many hours of my own time to paint, clean, repair and organize the old kitchen & cafeteria to make the facility the best that I can. We have a small staff including myself, one full time cook and two part time servers. I generally work 10 hour days. I have worked hard to make the food service program nutritious, appealing and popular with the students and staff. I feel that we could and must serve even more students with some basic improvements.

This bill HB 479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals requests \$250,000 for 50 Montana schools to receive \$5,000 grants, to be administered on a competitive basis by the OPI is sponsored by: Montana Dietetic Association (MDA) and the Food Policy Council, Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) I wholeheartedly support this bill. Providing for our school's needs, ranging from small to large, would significantly improve my program efficiency.

Please support HB 479 and the school children who need this help. Thank you.
Sincerely,

Robin Vogler



February 1, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

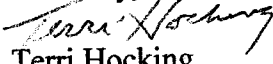
Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

The Montana Public Health Association would like to voice its support for HB 479, *Improving Access to Healthy School Meals*. We thank the House Education Committee for considering the bill, and appreciate Representative Holly Raser for sponsoring the legislation. This bill is vital to helping Montana children achieve success while at school. School nutrition programs provide balanced meals to children to ensure they are ready to learn. The bill seeks one-time only funding so that school districts throughout Montana can secure equipment needed to serve high quality, nutritious meals. Passage of HB 479 is greatly needed because the availability of adequate school foodservice equipment is directly related to the ability for the *School Nutrition Program* to prepare healthful meals.

MPHA educates and advocates for prevention of childhood obesity and support for healthy nutrition. Lack of policies and infrastructures to promote and support opportunities for healthy nutrition are contributing to the epidemic of obesity among school-aged children. In addition, diabetes, heart disease and other serious health problems at later stages in life may result from childhood obesity. We'd like to reference the *2006-2010 Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity State Plan to Prevent Obesity and Other Chronic Diseases* which can be found at this website:
<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/publications/obesitypreventionplan.pdf>

The Montana Public Health Association (MPHA) is a diverse membership of individuals and organizations advocating for optimal public health best practice standards for all Montanans. MPHA joins with other organizations on specific issues to strengthen the voice of public health and advance legislation to support the people of Montana. Again, thank you for considering HB 479 in committee. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lora Wier, MPHA Past President, MPHA Advocacy Committee Chair, at (406) 466-2562 or health@3rivers.net, or visit the MPHA website at www.mtpha.com

Sincerely,


Terri Hocking
President

Cc: Rep. Holly Raser, Minkie Medora



Montana Food Bank Network

February 12, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

Montana children need proper nutrition so that they are fit, healthy and ready to succeed at school. However, many Montana schools are struggling to provide proper student nutrition due to lack of adequate or necessary facilities, space or equipment. Currently 18,000 Montana children do not have access to a School Breakfast Program. Additionally, schools that do have a breakfast program, have very low participation. Only 40% of the students that participate in the Lunch program also eat school breakfast.

We want to voice our support for HB 479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals. This bill is vital to supporting Montana children in achieving academic success while at school. School nutrition programs provide balanced meals to children to ensure they are ready to learn. The bill seeks "one-time only" funding for critical needs to run the School meal programs so that school districts throughout Montana can secure equipment needed to serve high quality meals.

Many parents would prefer to feed their children at home; however, many families have no choice but to have both parents working. This makes it very difficult for parents to take care of their children's meals, and yet get to work on time.

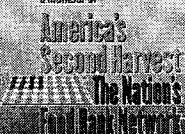
Children make up **43% of the total clients** that receive emergency food from Montana Food Bank agencies statewide. For many low income children, school meals may be the only meals they receive in a day. It is especially critical that school meals provide adequate nutrition for those children whose family may not have the resources to provide a meal at home.

Thank you for your service to the State of Montana. Please take strong consideration in supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Montana Food Bank Network
Montana Food Policy Council
Missoula Food Bank, Missoula
Community Food and Agriculture Coalition (CFAC), Missoula County
Butte Emergency Food Bank, Butte
Polson Loaves & Fish Food Pantry, Polson
Central Montana Community Cupboard, Lewistown
The Salvation Army, Missoula
Ronan Bread Basket, Ronan
Havre Food Bank, Havre
Gardiner Food Pantry, Gardiner
Pondera Food Pantry, Conrad

a member of



Peggy Grimes – Executive Director
5625 Expressway
Missoula, MT 59808

PHONE (406) 721-3825
TOLL FREE (800) 809-4752
FAX (406) 542-3770
E-MAIL endhunger@montanafoodbanknetwork.org
WEB SITE <http://www.montanafoodbanknetwork.org>



BUTTE EMERGENCY FOODBANK

P.O. Box 54
Butte, Montana 59703
(406) 782-6230

February 2, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

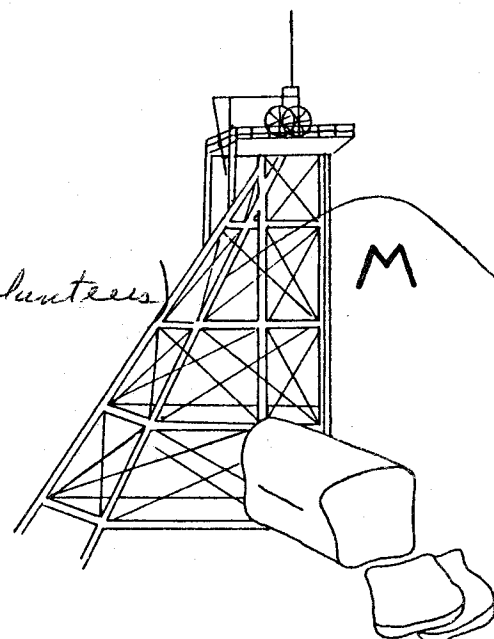
On behalf of the Butte Emergency Food Bank, I want to voice our support for HB 479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals. This bill is vital to supporting Montana children in achieving academic success while at school. School nutrition programs provide balanced meals to children to ensure they are ready to learn. The bill seeks "one-time only" funding for critical needs to run the School meal programs so that school districts throughout Montana can secure equipment needed to serve high quality meals. More and more Montana schools are also buying locally grown Montana foods. HB 479 will enable these schools to do more of that, and to support local farmers and the area economy.

Children make up 30 % of the 1000 clients that receive food monthly from the Butte Emergency Food Bank. For many low income children, school meals may be the only meals they receive in a day. It is especially critical that school meals provide adequate nutrition for those children whose family may not have the resources to provide a meal at home.

Thank you for your service to the State of Montana.

Sincerely,

Jim & Joanne Cortez,
Co-Directors (Volunteers)





Strengthening our Food and Agricultural Economy

January 30, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

Grow Montana, a coalition of food and agriculture groups working for a Montana-based food system, urges you to support HB 479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals. This bill is vital to improving academic achievement of Montana school children. Balanced meals provided by the school nutrition program help children learn. The bill seeks "one-time only" funding so that school districts throughout Montana can secure desperately needed cafeteria and food service equipment.

The bill's fiscal note should be viewed as an investment not only in children's health, but also in the health of our economy. Montanans spend approximately \$175 million per year due to obesity-related medical costs. Of that number, approximately \$89 million was for Medicare or Medicaid clients. Helping schools provide healthy meals can help alleviate the obesity crisis, which in turn will alleviate the burden on our healthcare system.

Grow Montana believes HB 479 can also support Montana's farmers and ranchers. Montana's K-12 schools spend over \$18 million dollars annually on food, very little of which is grown in-state. A study funded by Montana Department of Agriculture found that one of the barriers to increasing the amount of Montana-grown food served in schools is the lack of appropriate kitchen equipment to wash, clean, cook or serve food. For example, some schools need more cutting boards or slicers to process vegetables, or warmers to keep soup warm. A small amount of funding that allows schools to buy specifically what they need could help solve this problem.

Please vote "yes" vote for HB 479, which benefits not only school children, but our entire state.

Feel free to contact me if you would like to further discuss this issue.

Sincerely,

Crissie McMullan

Grow Montana Policy Researcher Crissie McMullan 531-5162 crissienc@yahoo.com
www.growmontana.ncat.org



Montana Food Bank Network

February 12, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

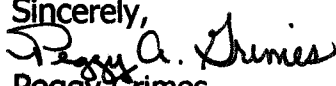
Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

On behalf of The Montana Food Bank Network, I want to voice our support for HB 479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals. This bill is vital to supporting Montana children in achieving academic success while at school. School nutrition programs provide balanced meals to children to ensure they are ready to learn. The bill seeks "one-time only" funding for critical needs to run the School meal programs so that school districts throughout Montana can secure equipment needed to serve high quality meals. More and more Montana schools are also buying locally grown Montana foods. HB 479 will enable these schools to do more of that, and to support local farmers and the area economy.

Children make up 43% of the total clients that receive food from our network of 156 emergency food agencies throughout the state. For many low income children, school meals may be the only meals they receive in a day. It is especially critical that school meals provide adequate nutrition for those children whose family may not have the resources to provide a nutritious meal at home.

Montana children need proper nutrition so that they are fit, healthy and ready to succeed at school. However, many Montana schools are struggling to provide proper student nutrition due to lack of adequate or necessary facilities, space or equipment. Currently 18,000 Montana children do not have access to a School Breakfast Program. Additionally, schools that do have a breakfast program, have very low participation. Only 40% of the students that participate in the Lunch program also eat school breakfast. Studies show that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, especially for children, because it supports their ability to concentrate on their studies and gives them the best possible opportunity to succeed in school.

Thank you for your service to the State of Montana. Feel free to contact me if you would like to further discuss this issue. Please take strong consideration in supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Peggy Grimes
Executive Director



Peggy Grimes – Executive Director
5625 Expressway
Missoula, MT 59808

PHONE (406) 721-3825
TOLL FREE (800) 809-4752
FAX (406) 542-3770
E-MAIL endhunger@montanafoodbanknetwork.org
WEB SITE <http://www.montanafoodbanknetwork.org>



February 7, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

On behalf of Missoula Food Bank, I want to voice our support for HB 479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals. This bill is vital to supporting Montana children in achieving academic success while at school. School nutrition programs provide balanced meals to children to ensure they are ready to learn. The bill seeks "one-time only" funding for critical needs to run the School meal programs so that school districts throughout Montana can secure equipment needed to serve high quality meals. More and more Montana schools are also buying locally grown Montana foods. HB 479 will enable these schools to do more of that, and to support local farmers and the area economy.

At Missoula Food Bank, 42% of the total clients that receive food each month are children under the age of 18 – in fact, over 5,000 children were served in 2006. School meals are vitally important for these children's daily nutritional needs. For many limited-income children, school meals may be the only meals they receive in a day. It is especially critical that school meals provide adequate nutrition for those children whose family may not have the resources to provide a meal at home.

Missoula Food Bank's mission is to reduce the incidence of hunger by providing nutritional food to those out of food and resources. Last year, we served over 15,000 individuals. We strongly support all efforts to increase access to food, and this bill will help to ensure that schools are adequately supplied with needed equipment to be able to serve fresh, healthy food to all their students, regardless of income levels.

Thank you for your service to the State of Montana. Feel free to contact me at (406)549-0543 or by email bonnie@missoulafoodbank.org if you would like to further discuss this issue. Please give strong consideration to supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Buckingham
Program Operations Manager

Feb 14, 2007

Representative Rick Jore
Chair, House Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Jore and Committee Members:

As a retired pediatrician, I want to voice my support for HB 479, Improving Access to Healthy School Meals.

It is important to support Montana children in achieving readiness for learning by providing access to a nutritional base for EVERY child. This bill seeks "one-time only" funding for critical needs to run the School meal programs so that school districts throughout Montana can secure equipment needed to serve high quality meals. Also, more and more Montana schools are also buying locally grown Montana foods, helping the local economy and smaller farmers, which is a part of this bill.

As a pediatrician, I was aware that several of my patients did not eat breakfast regularly. Sometimes this was because of parental ignorance or unconcern. Often, it was because of the demands of single-parent work schedules, or the fact that parents worked over-lapping shifts and no one was at home when the child left for school. A child's sense of well-being involves being fed, clothed, and cared for; and sometimes the schools must provide much of this underlying structure.

I hope for your support of this bill. Feel free to contact me at 449-2839 or by email at lizgun@mt.net if you would like to further discuss this issue.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Gundersen, M.D.
Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
530 Rodney Ct
Helena MT 59601